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SCDDSN exists for the success of its consumers by coordinating person-centered services and programs for persons with mental retardation and related disabilities, autism, head injuries and spinal cord injuries. SCDDSN will, accordingly:

1. Support a statewide network of disabilities and special needs boards, regional centers and qualified private providers to, as possible:
 - a. Offer choice of provider to consumers
 - b. Provide services as needed, as near as possible to the consumer's home, in family-like settings
 - c. Achieve respect for and community integration of consumers.
2. Assist local service providers with quality management, licensure, technical assistance and training to achieve compliance with all department policies, directives and regulations, and applicable state and federal laws and regulations.
3. Assess eligibility according to Section 44-20-390 of the South Carolina Code and applied in an individual service plan to develop each consumer's full potential in the least restrictive environment for those who meet residency requirements.
4. The Commission expects SCDDSN to utilize all available federal and state funds, and encourages local leaders to develop additional sources of supplementary support recognizing that:
 - a. Resources may not be adequate for all needs and that funding priority must be based on severity of need and vulnerability
 - b. Funding is a resource to individuals to meet identified needs
 - c. Funding accountability will be maintained and enforced.

5. Support prevention research and public education to reduce the incidence and severity of all disabilities addressed by SCDDSN.
6. Insure that all activities meet or exceed the quality of services and satisfaction achieved by comparable departments in other states.

John C. Vaughn
Vice Chairman
(Originator)

W. Robert Harrell
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